

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for selecting an appropriate optical fiber type for a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:  
     electronically receiving at least one technical parameter associated with a proposed communication network from a user;  
     automatically selecting an optical fiber type for the communication network based on the at least one technical parameter; and  
     electronically providing the selected optical fiber type to the user.
2. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
     electronically receiving a network modeling request from the user.
3. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
     electronically providing at least one of a wavelength dependent dispersion value, a graph of dispersion over a wavelength range and a specification for the selected optical fiber type to the user.
4. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
     electronically providing at least one of a wavelength dependent attenuation value, a graph of attenuation over a wavelength range and a specification for the selected optical fiber type to the user.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication network is a telecommunication network and the user is one of a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC), a communication carrier and a service provider.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one technical parameter includes at least one of a network type, a network length, a network channel plan, a network data rate, a network upgrade data rate, an initial active network channel count, a

maximum channel count, an optical fiber count, an average unregenerated link length and a link count.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is one of a metropolitan network and a long-haul network.

8. An optical fiber selection system for automatically selecting an appropriate optical fiber type for a communication network based on input from a user, the system comprising:

a user computer system;

a vendor computer system in communication with the user computer system, the vendor computer system executing code for performing the steps of:

receiving at least one technical parameter associated with a proposed communication network from the user via the user computer system;

automatically selecting an optical fiber type for the communication network based on the at least one technical parameter; and

providing the selected optical fiber type to the user via the user computer system.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the code is configured to allow the vendor computer system to perform the additional step of:

receiving a network modeling request from the user.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the code is configured to allow the vendor computer system to perform the additional step of:

providing at least one of a wavelength dependent dispersion value, a graph of dispersion over a wavelength range and a specification for the selected optical fiber type to the user.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the code is configured to allow the vendor computer system to perform the additional step of:

providing at least one of a wavelength dependent attenuation value, a graph of attenuation over a wavelength range and a specification for the selected optical fiber type to the user.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the communication network is a telecommunication network and the user is a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC), a communication carrier and a service provider.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one technical parameter includes at least one of a network type, a network length, a network channel plan, a network data rate, a network upgrade data rate, an initial active network channel count, a maximum channel count, an optical fiber count, an average unregenerated link length and a link count.

14. The system of claim 8, wherein the network is one of a metropolitan network and a long-haul network.

15. The system of claim 8, wherein the vendor computer system and the user computer system communicate via one of a dial-up connection, a local area network (LAN) and the Internet.

16. An optical fiber selection system for automatically selecting an appropriate optical fiber type for a communication network based on input from a user, the system comprising:

a database including information on a plurality of optical fiber types;

a vendor computer system, the vendor computer system executing code for performing the steps of:

receiving at least one technical parameter associated with a proposed communication network from the user;

automatically selecting one of the plurality of optical fiber types from the database for the communication network based on the at least one technical parameter; and  
providing the selected optical fiber type to the user.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the code is configured to allow the vendor computer system to perform the additional step of:

receiving a network modeling request from the user.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the code is configured to allow the vendor computer system to perform the additional step of:

accessing the database and providing at least one of a wavelength dependent dispersion value, a graph of dispersion over a wavelength range and a specification for the selected optical fiber type to the user.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the code is configured to allow the vendor computer system to perform the additional step of:

accessing the database and providing at least one of a wavelength dependent attenuation value, a graph of attenuation over a wavelength range and a specification for the selected optical fiber type to the user.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the communication network is a telecommunication network and the user is a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC), a communication carrier and a service provider.

21. The system of claim 16, wherein the at least one technical parameter includes at least one of a network type, a network length, a network channel plan, a network data rate, a network upgrade data rate, an initial active network channel count, a maximum channel count, an optical fiber count, an average unregenerated link length and a link count.

22. The system of claim 16, wherein the network is one of a metropolitan network and a long-haul network.

23. The system of claim 16, wherein communication between the vendor computer system and the user is facilitated by web pages.

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